

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for registering a process in a system where communication events occur that are related to notifications, the method comprising:

providing a user context including a user context state, the user context defining a communication event to be performed in response to a notification for at least one value of the user context state;

providing a rule that specifies at least one condition for modifying the defined communication event;

receiving a message to register a process for communication events;

in response to receiving the message, registering the process in response to the received message, wherein the registered process being is a program that includes has data regarding a the user context state that is outside data maintained by other components of the system; and

receiving an indication that the user context state has changed value; and

when a communication event occurs, evaluating a sender, in response to the occurrence of the defined communication event or the modified defined communication event, according to selected criteria to determine whether the registered process will send a customized message to the sender,

wherein the evaluation of the sender comprises determining a ~~determination of whether or not~~ the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein one type of communication event occurs when a notification from a sender is not delivered to a user due to a user's context.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein in response to receiving a communication event, the registered process provides ~~may provide~~ a customized message to the sender of the notification that includes data about the user.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the registered process is a calendaring program and the data about the user indicates a time when the user may next be available.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the data about the user includes at least one alternative contact for the user.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for registering a process in a user context system, the user context system including a user context state and a rule, wherein a communication event to be performed in response to a notification is defined for at least one value of the user context state, and the rule includes at least one condition for modifying the communication event, the method comprising:

 sending a message for registering a process, the registered process being a program that has data regarding the user context state that is outside the data maintained by the other components of the system;

~~when a communication event occurs,~~ evaluating a sender, in response the occurrence of the defined communication event or the modified defined communication event, ~~according to selected criteria~~ to determine whether the registered process will send a customized message to the sender, wherein the evaluation of the sender comprises ~~determining a determination of whether or not~~ the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message, and

 providing the registered process with information regarding the communication event.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the communication event is related to a notification that is sent from a sender to a user.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the information regarding the communication event indicates that the notification did not reach the user.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the information regarding the communication event includes a copy of the notification.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the data provided to the registered process comprises data regarding the user's activities.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the registered process provides a customized message to the sender of the notification that includes data regarding the user.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable storage media on which are stored machine instructions including instructions for a notification system, the notification system comprising:

a user context process for setting a user context including a user context state and at least one user rule, the user context and the at least one user rule being ~~are~~ made available to a user for modification in accordance with a preference of the user, wherein a communication event to be performed in response to a notification is defined for at least one value of the user context state, and the rule includes at least one condition for modifying the communication event;

a receiving component which receives notifications from a sending component and under specified conditions delivers the notifications to the user;
and

a registered process, the registered process being a program that has data regarding the user context state that is outside the data maintained by the other components of the system;

wherein when the sending component sends a notification to the receiving component, if the notification is not delivered to the user then a message is sent to the registered process regarding the non-delivery of the notification and wherein a sender who is associated with the sending component is evaluated ~~according to selected criteria~~ to determine whether the registered process will send a customized message to the sender, the evaluation of the sender comprising determination of whether the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message.

18. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 17, wherein the specified conditions under which a notification will not be delivered to a user are determined according to a user context.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 17, wherein in response to receiving a message regarding the non-delivery of a notification the registered process provides a customized message to the sending component that includes data about the user.

21. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 20, wherein the registered process is a calendaring program and the data about the user indicates a time when the user may next be available.

22. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 20, wherein the data about the user indicates at least one alternative contact for the user.

23-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable storage media on which are stored machine instructions including instructions for a user context system, the user context system comprising:

a first process for setting a user context including a user context state and at least one user rule, the user context and the at least one user rule being are made available to a user for modification in accordance with at least one preference of the user, wherein a communication event to be performed in response to a notification is defined for at least one value of the user context state, and the rule includes at least one condition for modifying the communication event;

a second process for generating a notification; and

a third process that is registered;

wherein the registered third process receives an event message in response to the notification not being delivered to the user, and wherein a sender of the notification is evaluated according to selected criteria to determine whether the registered third process will send a customized message to the sender when the notification does not reach the user, the evaluation of the sender comprising a determination of whether the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message.

26. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 25, wherein the second process is a communication program.

27. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 26, wherein the communication program comprises one of an email or instant messaging program.

28. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 25, wherein the registered third process is a program that has data regarding the user that is outside the data that is maintained by the other components of the system.

29. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 28, wherein the registered third process is a calendaring program that has data regarding the user's scheduled activities.

30. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 28, wherein the registered third process provides a customized message to the sender of the notification which includes information regarding the user.

31. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 30, wherein the customized message indicates a time when the user may next be available.

32. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 25, wherein the user context that is set by the first process indicates when the user is not available to interruption.

33. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 32, wherein when the third process receives an event message indicating that a notification was not delivered to the user, the registered third process sends a customized message indicating when the user may next be available.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The media of Claim 25, wherein the evaluation of the sender comprises a determination of whether or not the sender has been placed in a category that the user has selected.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled).

39. (Currently Amended) ~~The media of Claim 37~~ The computer storage media storing computer-useable instructions that, when executed by a computing device, perform a method according to claim 44, further comprising computer-useable instructions for enabling the evaluation of a notification in accordance with the user context in order to determine whether the notification will be delivered to the user.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer storage media of storing computer-useable instructions that, when executed by a computing device, perform a method according to~~ Claim 39, wherein if the notification is not delivered to the user, then a communication event occurs which is delivered to the registered process.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media of storing computer-useable instructions that, when executed by a computing device, perform a method according to Claim 37 44, wherein if a customized message is sent, the customized message is made to include data about the user.

43. (Currently Amended) The computer storage media of storing computer-useable instructions that, when executed by a computing device, perform a method according to Claim 42, wherein the data about the user indicates a time when the user may next be available.

44. (New) One or more computer-storage media storing computer-useable instructions that, when executed by a computing device, perform a method for providing information regarding communication events, at least one communication event occurring when a notification is not delivered to a user, comprising:

providing a user context including a user context state, the user context defining a communication event to be performed in response to a notification for at least one value of the user context state;

providing a rule that specifies at least one condition for modifying the defined communication event;

receiving a message to register a process for communication events;

registering the process in response to the received message, the registered process being a program that includes data regarding the user context state that is outside data maintained by other components of the system;

receiving an indication that the user context state has changed value; and

evaluating a sender, in response to the occurrence of the defined communication event or the modified defined communication event, to determine whether the registered process will send a customized message to the sender,

wherein the evaluation of the sender comprises determining whether the sender has been placed on a list of persons entitled to receive the customized message.